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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**5 DECEMBER 2018**

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) California – CBP Officers Discover Narcotics in Spare Tire**

(U) Calexico – US Customs and Border Protection officers working at the Downtown Calexico port of entry interrupted a methamphetamine smuggling attempt. The incident occurred when a CBP officer encountered a US citizen driving a silver 2004 Chevy Trailblazer. During the inspection, the officer detected inconsistencies with the traveler's itinerary and referred both driver and vehicle for a more in-depth examination. During secondary inspection, officers utilized an imaging system and a canine team to search the vehicle. Officers discovered 50 wrapped packages of methamphetamine concealed inside the spare tire of the vehicle. The weight of the narcotics was 51 pounds with a street value of approximately \$178,500.

SOURCE: 4 December 2018, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – 5 Million Pounds of Beef Added to National Recall**

(U) Washington – The initial recall announced by the US Food Safety and Inspection Service in October 2018 included 6.5 million pounds of raw beef products. The announcement yesterday brings the total recalled amount to nearly 12.1 million pounds. This addition of more than 5 million pounds of raw beef products to the national recall is over concerns about possible salmonella contamination, and the number of people sickened has soared to 246 patients in 26 states.

SOURCE: 4 December 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Republican Campaign Emails Hacked Ahead of Election

(U) Washington – Email accounts of officials at a Republican group that supports party candidates running for the US House of Representatives were hacked in early 2018, ahead of this year's Congressional elections. Hackers used stolen passwords to access email accounts of National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) email accounts. The NRCC quickly fixed the problem by changing the passwords on accounts at its web-based email provider and taking steps to protect the organization from similar attacks.

SOURCE: 4 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Hawaii – US Soldier Sentenced for Attempting to Provide Support to ISIS

(U) Honolulu – A soldier based in Hawaii was sentenced yesterday to 25 years, for trying to help ISIS. Sergeant First Class Ikaika Kang pleaded guilty in August 2018 to four counts of attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. He said he attempted to provide classified military documents, a drone and other help. He agreed when Assistant US Attorney Ken Sorenson described other support, provided to undercover agents Kang believed were affiliated with ISIS. In exchange for Kang's guilty plea, prosecutors said they won't charge him with additional crimes, including violations of the espionage act, other terrorism-related laws and federal firearms statutes.

SOURCE: 4 December 2018, [Associated Press](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Canada – Trial Date set for Man Accused in Van Attack**

(U) Toronto – The case of a man accused of driving a van into pedestrians in Toronto and killing 10 people is set to begin in February 2020. Alek Minassian faces 10 counts of first-degree murder and 16 counts of attempted murder in connection with the 23 April attack. Authorities haven't disclosed a motive. But they have said Minassian posted a message on social media referencing a misogynistic online community before he plowed a rental van into crowds of pedestrians. Eight of the 10 killed were women. Minassian wasn't present in court for yesterday's hearing.

SOURCE: 3 December 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Italy – Crackdown on Cocaine Trafficking Gang

(U) Rome – Scores of people were arrested in Italy and other European countries today, in a raid on the 'Ndrangheta cocaine-trafficking group. Those arrested are suspected of drug trafficking, money laundering, bribery and violence. The arrests include high level members of the 'Ndrangheta. The group runs its global operations from a base in southern Italy. There were 41 arrests in Italy, 21 in Germany, 14 in Belgium, five in the Netherlands, and two in Luxembourg.

SOURCE: 5 December 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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